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MU Sinclair School of Nursing to offer coaching services to nursing home administrators

Columbia, Mo. — Nursing home administrators across Missouri will soon be able to take advantage of a new coaching service to help them meet the challenges of the long-term-care industry.

The University of Missouri Sinclair School of Nursing, in cooperation with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, will begin the Nursing Home Leadership Coaching Service in June 2011. The service will focus on helping administrators deal effectively with the complex management issues they face each day in their business and personnel operations.

Designed as a voluntary service, the Nursing Home Leadership Coaching Service will be able to assist nursing home administrators with issues such as operational improvement, corporate compliance, budget analysis, regulations, process improvement leadership skills, staff retention, contract review, survey readiness, staff training, quality of life and culture change. Coaching will be tailored to meet individual administrator needs within the context of each person's unique operational situations, as well as within the variety of corporate and business models in Missouri. The service will work collaboratively with the MU [QIPMO program](#), which has provided nursing homes with evidence-based clinical information related to the care of the elderly in Missouri's nursing homes since 1999.

Dave Walker, BSE, of Jackson, Mo., will serve as the NHA coach beginning June 20, 2011. Walker has more than 28 years of experience as an administrator/executive director of skilled nursing homes with a long history of operations and financial accountability, facility upgrades and budgetary analysis. He has received numerous industry awards, including the 2008 and 2009 President's Awards from the Missouri Association of Nursing Home Administrators.

Matt Younger, director of the Long-Term Care Section of DHSS, worked with the Sinclair School of Nursing to develop the coaching service in an effort to increase access to current and relevant information and advice that will assist Missouri nursing home administrators in their management roles. "Having the resources of an experienced nursing home administrator in the service will be another avenue available for Missouri nursing home leaders to seek assistance in management issues faced by the homes," said Younger.

Nursing home administrators interested in consulting with Walker should contact the MU Sinclair School of Nursing at 573-576-5850 or by e-mail at walkerdavi@missouri.edu.